

SWARTHMORE, PA — Congressman Sestak visited Children and Adult Disability Educational Services (CADES) in Swarthmore on Monday, February 23, 2009, to speak with students and staff and discuss his efforts to make schools more environmentally friendly. After 26 years of renting, CADES has purchased its building and Executive Director William Benson spoke with the Congressman about their efforts to make the school energy efficient and environmentally responsible.

“Green schools and facilities create a healthy environment that is conducive to learning while saving energy, resources, and money,” said Congressman Sestak. “We have to remember that 55 million children, teachers, administrators, nurses and janitors spend their days in K-12 schools.”

“I want to congratulate William Benson and CADES on the acquisition of this fine facility,” said the Congressman. “I want to applaud their efforts to make their school energy efficient and environmentally oriented, and I want to profoundly thank everyone for the wonderful work they do here.”

Green Schools

- The U.S. Green Building Council, which has established the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating system, says that a LEED-certified school
 - o uses 30-50 percent less energy than a conventional school;
 - o reduces harmful carbon dioxide emissions by 40 percent, which helps reduce global climate change;
 - o uses 30 percent less water;
 - o has better lighting and temperature controls, which promotes higher student achievement; and
 - o has a more comfortable indoor environment, improved ventilation and indoor air quality, which result in short-term (\$96,760 per year) and long-term savings as a result of green building (the average national school construction cost is \$150 per square foot; building green adds only \$3 per square foot).

Programs for Green Schools

- Energy Star program of the U.S. Department of Energy and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Energy Star focuses on energy use.
- Collaborative for High Performance Schools (CHPS) criteria. LEED and CHPS are more comprehensive, and assess site sustainability, water efficiency, energy and atmosphere, materials and resources, indoor environmental quality, and the design process.

Provisions for Green Schools in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

- State Fiscal Stabilization Fund includes \$8.8 billion to states for high priority needs such as public safety and other critical services, which may include education and for modernization, renovation and repairs of public school facilities and institutions of higher education facilities.
- Extension and increase in authorization for qualified zone academy bonds (QZABs). The bill would allow an additional \$1.4 billion of QZAB issuing authority to State and local governments in 2009 and 2010, which can be used to finance renovations, equipment purchases, developing course material, and training teachers and personnel at a qualified zone academy. In general, a qualified zone academy is any public school (or academic program within a public school) below college level that is located in an empowerment zone or enterprise community and is designed to cooperate with businesses to enhance the academic curriculum and increase graduation and employment rates. QZABs are a form of tax credit bonds which offer the holder a Federal tax credit instead of interest.

High Performance Green Schools Planning Grants for Pennsylvania

- Encourage school districts to invest in these high caliber facilities,
- help defray costs which are not typically included in the design fee but which are critical to the design of a high performance building.
- funded by the State Public School Building Authority and jointly administered by the Governor's Green Government Council and the Pennsylvania Department of Education and information is available at the GGGC website.
- There is no deadline for application.
- Awards will be made on a first come, first served basis upon verification of project eligibility and will be limited to available program funds.
- Grants will cover costs directly associated with obtaining LEED for Schools Silver, Gold, or Platinum certification, which we are using as an independent measure of compliance with high performance standards.
- Eligible costs include building energy simulations and daylight modeling, green coaches and specialty consultant fees, design fees for additional services beyond those conventionally covered, and help with LEED for Schools certification costs.

Support for Special Education in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

\$12.2 billion for Special Education/IDEA to improve educational outcomes for disabled children. This level of funding will increase the Federal share of special education services to its highest level ever.

- Benefits for Pennsylvania: \$426.6 million for Special Education Part B State Grants to help improve educational outcomes for individuals with disabilities, raising the federal contribution to nearly 40 percent, the level established when the law was authorized more than 30 years ago.

CADES was originally founded in 1951 as United Cerebral Palsy of Delaware County when a small group of parents met to establish a registration of all those with cerebral palsy in Delaware County to study their needs and to work towards meeting these needs. In December 2002, the agency changed its name to Children and Adult Disability and Educational Services (CADES) to better reflect its current mission to affect positively the quality of life for persons with cerebral palsy, their family members, and others with developmental or physical disabilities in Southeastern Pennsylvania.

Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of "Deep Blue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the "Global War on Terrorism." He served as President Clinton's Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever elected to the U.S. Congress.

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